

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated February 17, 2006 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 2-7 are rejected by the Examiner. Claims 4-7 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. New claims 17-21 have been added and no new matter has been added. Claims 8-16 are withdrawn from consideration. Claims 2, 3, and 8-21 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 2-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Akahira (US Patent 6,471,352) in view Ueno (JP 09-166783). The rejection of claims 2-7 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 4-7 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and Applicants submit that the rejection to claims 4-7 is moot. Applicants submit that claims 2 and 3 are allowable over Akahira and Ueno because the cited references do not teach or suggest each and every element of the claims.

Claim 2 recites a method for forming an alignment layer of a liquid crystal display device having a combination of features including “driving the alignment material dropping unit from the first side to a second side of the stage to drop the alignment material through holes along a plurality of first dropping directions; shifting the alignment material dropping unit by a predetermined distance along a direction perpendicular to the first dropping direction; and driving the alignment material dropping unit from the second side to the first side of the stage to drop the alignment material through holes along a plurality of second dropping directions.” Applicants submit that Akahira does not teach or suggest at least the quote feature of claim 2.

The Examiner acknowledges that Akahira does not teach dropping alignment material and cites Ueno as disclosing, “using the dropping unit panels for dropping alignment material.” Applicants do not reach the Examiner’s conclusion with respect to the teachings of Ueno. Applicants submit that Ueno does not cure the deficiencies in Akahira with respect to the above quoted combination of features of claim 2. Applicants submit that Akahira and Ueno, analyzed singly or in combination do not teach or suggest each and every element of claim 2. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 2 is allowable over Akahira and Ueno.

Applicants note that claim 3 depends from claim 2 and recites all of the limitations of claim 3. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 3 is allowable over Akahira and Ueno at least by way of the dependency of claim 3 from claim 2 and for the reasons given above for claim 2.

The application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Dated: May 17, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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